PSUs, safety net to workers and reduction of debt burden and that a sum of Rs. 5000 crore will be used to provide additional budgetary support for the plan primarily in the social and infrastructure sectors. This additional allocation for the plan will be contingent upon realisation of the anticipated receipts.

(d) Disinvestment process is in progress in 30 companies, *viz.*, Maruti Udyog Ltd., Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL), Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd. (IPCL), Bharat Heavy Plates and Vessels Ltd. (BHPV), Nepa Ltd., Instrumentation Control Valves Ltd. (ICVL), Jessop & Company Limited, India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC), Hotel Corporation of India Ltd., Air India Ltd. (AI), Engineering Projects (India) Ltd. (EPIL), Hindustan Copper Ltd. (HCL), Hindustan Cable Ltd., Hindustan Salt Ltd., Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd. (HOCL), Madras Fertilizers Ltd. (MFL), Minerals & Metals Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (MMTC), National Fertilizers Ltd. (NFL), Shipping Corporation of India Ltd. (SCI), Sponge Iron India Ltd. (SIIL), State Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (STC), MECON Ltd., National Aluminium Company Ltd. (NALCO), Tungabhadra Steel Products Ltd. (TSPL), Burn Standard Co. Ltd., Braithwaite & Co. Ltd., Tyre Corporation of India Ltd., Bharat Opthalmic Glass Ltd. and National Instruments Ltd.

(e) Protection of interests of employees is an integral component of the disinvestment policy. This is ensured by making appropriate provisions in the Shareholders Agreement.

Improvement of National Waterways-II

*46. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects for improvement of National Waterways-II during the Ninth Five Year Plan, indicating amount sanctioned, released and utilized, target set and achievement made year-wise; and

(b) the amount allocated for placement of dredgers, number of dredgers placed and the details of dredging activities in National Waterways-II?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI VED PRAKASH GOYAL): (a) For improving the National Waterway No. 2, (a distance covering 891 Kms. from Dhubri to Sadiya in Assam) the projects like annual conservancy works, surveys, procurement of hardware like dredgers, survey launches, setting up and maintenance of floating terminals at various locations, provision of 24 hours

navigational aids and small schemes like procurement of computers, echo- sounder etc. were approved. It also included dissemination of navigational safety information such as depth, horizontal and vertical clearances etc. by issue of fortnightly river notices. For these projects, a budget allocation of Rs. 48.19 Cr. for five years on a year to year basis was provided for National Waterway No 2, as given below:

(Rs. in crore)

	Sanctioned Budget	Released/utilized
1997-98	9.44	2.59
1998-99	10.95	5.83
1999-2000	6.70	3.22
2000-2001	11.10	5.26
2001-2002	10.00	6.92 (Released up to January 2002 and utilization in progress)
	48.19	23.82

As for achievements, annual river conservancy works including surveys are taken up on year-to-year basis with an aim to provide minimum depth of 2 meter for navigational purposes and depth of 2 meter has been maintained between Dhubri and Neamati for a distance of 630 Kms. One Hydraulic Surface Dredger has been constructed from Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Ltd. Kolkata and is being engaged in dredging. Actions are also in hand to procure one cutter suction dredging unit. One Survey Launch has been constructed and construction of three more is in progress. Four floating terminals have been set up of Dhubri, Jogighopa, Pandu and Silghat and are being maintained. Actions are in hand to get constructed five more pontoons for using as floating terminals. Projects for provision of 24 hours navigational aids is under progress for the stretch between Dhubri and Pandu. Procurement of computers, echo sounders etc. has been completed. Navigational information by way of river notices has been disseminated regularly.

(b) A Plan provision of Rs. 15 crores was made for procurement of one cutter suction dredger and one hydraulic surface dredger. One hydraulic surface dredger has been constructed at a cost of Rs. 5.23 crore and the same has been positioned for dredging in National Waterway No. 2. Procurement action for one cutter suction dredging unit at a cost of Rs. 8.13 Cr. is in progress.

While waiting for own dredgers, tenders were floated for chartering of dredgers in National Waterway No. 2. But this did not materialize on account of no response from private sector due to reasons well-known. Alternate method of river conservancy namely bandalling was resorted to, to keep the navigational route operational. The route from Dhubri to Negmati for a distance of 630 Kms. was maintained with 2-meter depth by this method.

Publicity of Government views

*47. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREEDY:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of Government in regard to publicity of their views through audio-visual media;

(b) whether it is a fact that owing to lack of sponsorship, D.D. News Channel, would be shut down; and

(c) if so, how the views of Government would be publicised to fulfil social responsibility?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ):(a) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is the nodal Ministry of the Government for dissemination of information of Government's policies and programmes and for spreading awareness through various means of communications, including audio-visual media. This role is performed through its various Media Units, as well as by Prasar Bharati, which is an autonomous statutory Corporation, whose mandate is to conduct public broadcasting service to inform, educate and entertain the public.

(b) and (c) As a part of its restructuring exercise, Prasar Bharati has closed down DD News and Current Affairs Channel due to its high cost and low visibility. DD-National Channel, which has an extensive reach, now carries more programmes on news and current affairs to fulfil the mandate of public service broadcasting more effectively.

Implementation of SC Order relating to illegal sex determination tests

48. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite the Supreme Court's orders to confiscate ultrasound machines used to carry out sex determination tests not even a single machine has been impounded in the Capital;